



**Council District Six  
City of San Diego**

**Councilmember Donna Frye's  
2009 State of Serra Mesa & Kearny Mesa**

**January 28, 2009**

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### ***Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library***

After being open for 3 years, we still have exciting things to look forward to at our beautiful branch library. I want to welcome Rita Glick as the new Branch Manager. Rita has worked in the Library system for many years and she is very enthusiastic and helpful in her new position.

The educational space that is being designed for young children is moving forward. I helped secure a grant from the First Five Commission for this project in 2005. The artists received approval of the conceptual design from the community this year. The artists made the first presentation, received input from the residents, and then came back with modifications. One of the main suggestions was to incorporate more of the natural habitat into the designs. The community very much appreciated that their feedback was incorporated into a new design, and I certainly do as well. This project will need to be completed by the end of 2009 to use the grant money that was secured. For more information on this project, please contact the City's Public Art Project Coordinator, Christine Jones at (619) 236-6791.

### ***Parkview Aero Court Development***

In October 2005, the City Council supported my motion to approve this project, which includes a \$4.4 million developer contribution to be used for the benefit of parks in Serra Mesa. Fairfield Residential sold the housing project to Simpson Housing. Simpson Housing paid the \$4.4 million contribution shortly before breaking ground. The money will be used to install turfing at Wegeforth Elementary and Angier Elementary, both of which will have joint-use agreements. There will also be improvements made at Cabrillo Heights Neighborhood Park, but the improvements have not been determined yet. City staff is expecting to attend the next Serra Mesa Recreation Council meeting on March 11, 2009 to gather input for these three projects, and community input is particularly needed for Cabrillo Heights. The anticipated completion date for these projects is early 2011.

### ***Birdland Traffic Improvements***

CalTrans moved the HOSPITAL sign on SR-163 northbound from the Genesee Avenue exit to the Mesa College Drive exit. So far, we have heard it is helping reduce traffic into the residential part of Birdland. CalTrans will also be evaluating the effectiveness of the southbound I-805 on-ramp from Mesa College Drive.

We will continue looking at ways that the City and CalTrans can improve the traffic flow in this area. This will be easier to do once all the construction has been completed at both of the hospitals, and at the new Ronald McDonald House.

### ***Ronald McDonald House***

Their new building is coming along very quickly. They will have a new 47 bedroom facility (from the current 12) and will be incorporating solar energy. Unlike most non-profit organizations who undertake large capital projects, they have actually received financing from a bank to begin this, but that means that they still need to raise another \$15 million to complete the house. On October 1, 2008 a "Topping-Off Party" was held to celebrate the beginning of construction, which is actually located on top of the new Children's Hospital parking garage.

### ***Sharp Memorial Hospital***

On January 8, 2009, I attended Sharp Memorial Hospital's new Stephen Birch Healthcare Center dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony. The new facility has 334 beds and every room is private, and also includes a sleeper sofa to accommodate family members. It also includes 10 new state-of-the-art surgery suites and the largest emergency and trauma center in San Diego. This is San Diego's first new hospital in more than 15 years and I am very pleased to have this facility in Serra Mesa.

### ***Afghan Community Islamic Center***

On August 1, 2008 the Center opened its doors and held an open house for all the neighbors. Members of the Center spoke and some talked about how they grew up in the community and how happy they were that the Center was able to establish itself in Serra Mesa. They want the community to know that they are happy to have anyone come in and visit with them. You can reach them at (858) 560-9191 or at [info@acicinfo.org](mailto:info@acicinfo.org).

### ***Palladium at Aero mixed use project***

This is a mixed use project with rental housing and 5,000 square feet of retail space. The developer worked with the residents and made some modifications to the design. This project earned the support of the Kearny Mesa Planning Group, with one vote in opposition, but it was not able to win the support of the SMPG. As such, I felt that I needed to support the SMPG, since they are the residents that will actually be living next to this project. However, the City Council voted for its approval on November 18, 2008 by a vote of 6-2. As a result of the project's approval, the Serra Mesa Community Council has now filed a lawsuit challenging the environmental documents used in that process.

### ***Quarry Falls***

This project proposes to develop the rock quarry in Mission Valley in phases with a total of 4,780 housing units, park space, offices, retail, and a charter school. While most of this project is in Mission Valley, there will be six acres in Serra Mesa, which is planned to be a park.

This item came to City Council on October 21, 2008 and a motion was made by another Councilmember before I had a chance to ask questions. Because of that, I could not support the motion that was on the floor. The motion passed and the project will be moving ahead. I am told that they will start construction in about 18-24 months.

There was a separate vote taken on the issue of the connecting road to Phyllis Place. I do not support a connecting road, but the City Council approved the initiation of a Community Plan Amendment for the road. There will need to be additional public hearings for the road connection to get approved, so I urge you to stay engaged. The City Planner for this project is Brian Schoenfisch at (619) 533-6457.

### ***Traffic Improvements***

#### **Signage and Striping Changes**

- Signs and marking:
  - Installed a DUMPING PROHIBITED sign on the east side of Sandrock Road near Cabrillo Mesa Drive
  - Installed NO TURN ON RED signs facing southbound traffic on Health Center Drive at Genesee Avenue

- Installed crosswalks at the intersection of Fermi Avenue and Marathon Drive
- Parking:
  - Installed a red zone at 8637 Glenhaven Street
  - Removed red curb at the following locations:
    - 2831 Health Center Drive
    - 3326 Ruffin Road
  - Installed a white zone at 9191 Ruffin Road
- Speed limits:
  - Installed SPEED LIMIT 25 signs at the following locations:
    - 2586 Melbourne Drive
    - 8531 Pinecrest Avenue
  - Installed a SPEED LIMIT 35 sign on Sandrock Road just south of Aero Drive

### ***Community Group Meetings***

#### **Serra Mesa Community Council**

Date: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month

Time: 7 pm

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library at 9005 Aero Drive

Contact: President Les Williamson at lwilliamson@san.rr.com

#### **Serra Mesa Planning Group**

Date: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

Time: 7 pm

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library at 9005 Aero Drive

Contact: Chair Doug Wescott at Doug@wescotts.org

#### **Serra Mesa Recreation Council**

Date: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every odd month

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Serra Mesa Recreation Center at 9020 Village Glen Drive

Contact: Center Director Linwood Mackey at (858) 573-1408

#### **Friends of Ruffin Canyon**

*Business Meetings:*

Date: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30

Place: Taft Middle School

*Work Parties:*

Date: Every Wednesday from 12-2 pm and the 1st Saturday of the month from 9am-12

Place: Taft Middle School

Contact: Bonnie Hough at bhough1@san.rr.com

#### **Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library**

Date: Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

Time: 4 pm

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library at 9005 Aero Drive

### **Airports Advisory Committee**

Date: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month

Time: 3 - 5 pm

Place: Montgomery Field Terminal Lobby

### ***Community Meetings and Frye Lights***

I meet with members of the community regularly at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library on the fourth Friday of each month, from noon to 2pm. Please contact my office at (619) 236-6616 to schedule an appointment. Any time you have questions or community issues, you can contact Kristin Camper, my Representative to the Serra Mesa and Kearny Mesa communities, at (619) 533-6460.

My office also provides a monthly publication called *Frye Lights*, where you will find updates and current events from the communities that I represent. Staff distributes the newsletter at community meetings, and it is available in electronic format on our website at [www.sandiego.gov/cd6](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd6). You can also sign up on this website to automatically receive electronic copies of the newsletter, as well as other updates, in your E-mail.

## **City-Wide Accomplishments**

### ***Lead Paint Ordinance***

On March 11, 2008, the City Council voted to support a new ordinance that will help prevent, identify and remedy lead hazards in housing before children are poisoned. This ordinance was the result of my formation of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Citizen's Advisory Committee, that forwarded recommendations to the Land Use and Housing Committee of the City Council. The ordinance requires use of lead-safe work practices to ensure that children are protected from the dangers of lead-based paint and dust. Call the Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program at (858) 694-7000 with any questions or to report a possible lead hazard. This includes pre-1979 buildings with cracking, peeling and chalking paint, and people unsafely disturbing paint on pre-1979 buildings. You can also contact the Environmental Health Coalition at: [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org).

### ***General Plan***

A comprehensive update to the City of San Diego's General Plan was unanimously adopted by the City Council on March 10, 2008. The new General Plan sets out a long-range vision and comprehensive policy framework for how the City should plan for projected growth and development, provide public services, and maintain the qualities that define San Diego over the next 20 to 30 years. The Planning Commission will be holding a hearing on the draft General Plan Action Plan in February 2009.

### ***Bi-Monthly Water and Sewer Billing***

On March 1, 2008, the City of San Diego Water and Metropolitan Wastewater Departments began the process of switching water/sewer/storm drain customers to a bi-monthly billing cycle. This switch impacted all single-family domestic customers, and

some multi-family, commercial and industrial customers. In 2003, the Water Department issued monthly bills, with every other bill based on an estimate of water usage. Now, the bill customers receive every two months is based on actual usage, not estimates as in the past. One constituent named Andy Manzi played a large role in calling this discrepancy to our attention. We very much appreciated his hard work and astute suggestions. Another benefit to bi-monthly billing is the savings for the Water and Metropolitan Wastewater Departments (for printing and mailing) which are expected to exceed \$500,000 annually. For questions about your bills, call the Water Department at (619) 515-3500.

### ***Mandatory Recycling Ordinance***

Until recently, San Diego was one of the only cities in the county that did not require mandatory recycling by residents and businesses. In 2005, I had made a motion that was supported by the full City Council to direct the former City Manager to provide an update on when the Mandatory Recycling program would be docketed for Council. Unfortunately, nothing was brought forward until 2007, when the City Attorney released a proposed ordinance to require mandatory recycling throughout the City, including condominium and apartment complexes, and businesses where recycling is often unavailable. I held a meeting of the Natural Resources and Culture Committee to review the proposal, which recommended that the ordinance move forward to the full City Council for approval. As of February 18, 2008, certain apartment and condominium complexes, businesses and special events in San Diego are required to provide recycling programs to their tenants, employees and participants. The Mandatory Recycling Ordinance aims to reduce the amount of waste entering local landfills in order to lengthen the life of the Miramar Landfill, meet California recycling mandates and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If you would like any additional information about recycling, please call the Environmental Services Department at (858) 694-7000.

### ***Amendments to the City's Emergency Water Regulations***

On July 28, 2008, the Mayor and City Council declared that San Diego is in a Stage 1 Water Emergency. San Diegans are now officially requested to voluntarily save water. If the City goes to a Stage 2 Water Alert, there may be mandatory water conservation. In this Stage 1 Water Watch, San Diegans are asked to voluntarily reduce their indoor and outdoor usage. A complete list of the voluntary actions being requested are laid out in the Municipal Code regarding Emergency Water Regulations, which the City Council updated on November 10, 2008. These changes were made in order to improve the City's demand response program in the event of a water supply shortage. For more information check the Water Department's website at:

[www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/ordinance.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/ordinance.shtml)

### ***Flood Mitigation Plan***

In 2006, the City of San Diego applied to the office of Emergency Services for a flood mitigation assistance planning grant. The City was awarded \$50,000 in grant funds and was provided a list of 23 properties within San Diego which were designated as repetitive loss (RL) properties by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City then hosted workshops which provided an opportunity for residents to learn about the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs, and to voice their concerns of potential flooding issues throughout the city. One of the community meetings was held in the Mission Valley Community, which has flooding issues due to its proximity to the San Diego

River. The City completed its first flood mitigation plan and got approval from FEMA on June 17, 2008. Now that the plan has been approved by the City Council, the City will be eligible to receive additional grant funds from FEMA to implement the mitigation strategies proposed in the Flood Mitigation Plan.

### ***Pension Reform Compromise***

Earlier this year I worked cooperatively with Mayor Sanders, Council President Peters and the City's unions to draft a new pension plan for new city employees that will save the city millions of dollars while still remaining competitive in attracting qualified employees to work for San Diego.

### ***Redevelopment Agency Repayment to General Fund***

For years I have called for the city's Redevelopment Agency, and specifically the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC), the entity responsible for redeveloping the downtown area, to begin repayment of funds loaned to it by the city totaling over \$100 million. During last year's budget discussions, the mayor agreed with me and beginning with this year's budget, the Redevelopment Agency will pay the city \$11.3 million to fund the annual debt service on PETCO Park.

### ***Council Governance***

Over the past few months, I have reached out to many of you in the community to hear your ideas and suggestions as to how you think the City Council can be better run to serve you. After many community meetings and public hearings, I was able to draft a report on your recommendations. Some of the suggestions include:

- More evening meetings of the City Council
- More meetings in the communities- away from City Hall
- Requiring the Mayor to attend public meetings and listen to members of the public speak
- Expand access to the City Council Docket
- Enhance Council Oversight of Independent City Agencies (SEDC, CCDC)

I worked closely with Councilmember DeMaio and the rest of the City Council to bring these items forward for discussion. In December, the City Council voted to have a full discussion of these proposed reforms at the City Council's Rules Committee in early 2009. You can view a copy of the final report at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/pdf/memorandum/081113.1.pdf>

### ***Opposed Pay Raises***

I opposed pay raises to employees during the last round of budget hearings. The proposed raises, during these difficult economic times for the city, were not based on any new revenue source to offset the costs. I spoke out against such a practice, which unfortunately has been the way the city has done business in recent years.

### ***Council Leadership Selection Process***

When the voters of San Diego elected four new councilmembers into office this past November, they were expecting new leadership on the City Council. However, with only a few weeks remaining until the old councilmembers left office, there was a push by outgoing councilmembers to choose the leadership (Council President and President Pro-Tem) for the new City Council. I believe this act blatantly ignored the wishes of

thousands of voters across the city, and was entirely inappropriate. I worked closely with new and old councilmembers to successfully put a stop to this effort.

### ***SEDC Investigation***

For months, I believed there was inappropriate behavior taking place at the South Eastern Development Corporation. After an investigation by the Voice of San Diego confirmed my suspicions, we found that the committee engaged in inappropriate land deals with developers, under the direction of out-of-control president, while also giving herself raises with taxpayer dollars. I worked with the mayor and other councilmembers to take swift action. The board is now under new leadership and is in the process of reforming its business practices.

### ***Auditing Inefficiencies in the City***

As we have gone about reforming the way our city deals with how to audit itself, I have been able to ensure that the city looks inward to correct any inefficiencies in our internal controls and auditing system. Making sure our city auditor is free from management interference, that the city council Audit Committee is free from management influence, and that our city auditor has a sufficient number of employees are all crucial aspects of having auditor independence. I will continue to be vigilant about this by working cooperatively with the city auditor and the city's Audit Committee, as I believe it is a vital function that can help guarantee the fiscal health of our city in future years.

### ***Whistleblower Hotline***

With the passage of Prop C and by working closely with the city's Audit Committee I was able to get the city's Whistleblower Hotline under the control of the city auditor, instead of the Mayor's office. Having the Mayor's office run it was an inherent conflict of interest because all employees work for him, making the hotline useless and ineffective. Having the city auditor control it will give employees a safer place to report instances of corruption, waste or inappropriate behavior when they see it in city departments. I will continue to work closely with the city auditor to ensure the hotline is run effectively and independently.

***Councilmember Frye serves on the following City Council Committees:***

Natural Resources & Culture (chair)

Rules, Open Government, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

***Useful Information:***

For more information about the City Council's weekly agenda visit the city website at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil>

The contact information for the Mayor and the City Council is provided below for your convenience:

*Mayor Jerry Sanders*

*Phone: (619) 236-6330*

*Fax: (619) 236-7228*

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*District 1*

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